

February 25, 2011

Governor Dannel Malloy
Office of the Governor
State Capital
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

As an alum of Saint Joseph College, I was asked to contact you concerning your budget proposal to reduce and ultimately eliminate the need-based financial assistance program – Connecticut Independent Student Grant program (CICS). The CICS grant program has been instrumental in providing students the opportunity to attend my alma mater, and perhaps like me, be the first in your family to attend college and earn a degree.

In the long run, cutting financial assistance opportunities as the economy, nationally and in the state, is floundering is certainly not in the best interests of this state. If our students are not able to return to their schools, what employment opportunities will there be for them in Connecticut? If we let our students leave the state then we are draining our intellectual capital. While I very much appreciate your maintaining the Equalized Funding for Education to the towns and cities, I am concerned about the following and ask that you re-consider your position on them:

Lower the gas tax for the state of CT: Truckers presently fill up in Massachusetts for up to \$.30 per gallon less, drive free through Connecticut to New York and New Jersey and then refill in those states. We gain NO REVENUE. We know people who drive to Mass to buy gas together with points from the local grocery store, and have actually saved \$1.00 per gallon. Buying gas in CT is certainly preferred, if the cost-saving is the same!

Re-instate tolls at our borders: With today's electronic devices, there is no need for booths, and we can capture out of state vehicles that use our highways toll-free - including those truckers and the casino tourists. For the border residents who work in neighboring states, establish a multi-use fee so that they are not penalized daily. Again, operate it electronically.

No one proposal or group of proposals generates happiness for all, but when the people who can afford to absorb these kinds of proposals are always considered because "they might move out of state", please give more consideration to those of us who can't move – we have to stay and bear the "shared sacrifices" – all of them. I would appreciate your considering these suggestions that might work in conjunction with your proposals.

Even though your schedule is pretty full, please know that I would be pleased to discuss these issues with you at any time. I can be reached at cdesimas@comcast.net or the numbers listed below. I applaud your meetings throughout the state – a great idea.

Sincerely,

Catherine T deSimas
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